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THE TRUE

NARRATIVE

OF THE

CONFESSION

AND

EXECUTION

of the seven Prisoners

AT

TY BURN

On *Wednesday* the 24th. of this Instant *October*. 1683.
Viz. Charles Butler, who was Drawn, and Hang'd for *High-Treason*

John Quarles,
John Smith,
Mary Phelps,

Charles Dqd,
Hugh Jones,
Edward Williams,

For Murther, Felonies, Burglaries, and divers other crimes. And also a particular Account of their several Facts, and where Committed.

Every Sessions produces the reſtaur'd Effects of abused Grace, and notwithstanding his most Sacred Majesties continued Clemency to the most Notorious Offenders, almost even to a Miracle yet such is the obdurate Resolutions of many wretched and miserable Transgressors, as to continue in their Diabolical Practices, till it becomes an Act of Necessity for the Sword of Justice to cut off all such, as dead Branches: lest the most delightful Tree of Community should become wither'd and of no use in the Garden of this present world.

I will not insist on the particular Crimes of many of the present sufferers which his Majesties Transcendent Charity and Mercy hath covered in times past; a and indeed in those virtues daily Experience manifests him to be the true Image, He represents: and it may be as truly said his Mercy is above all his Judgments: and at this very Instant time, many have been restored to Life (in hopes of their Repentance and Amendment) who had forfeited all that this present world is sensible of to the

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Justice

Justice of the Law, and those whose wicked inclinations may incline them to such Courses, as end in nothing but Death and Destruction in this World, besides the danger they are in, by provoking God to Anger and Justice, and become Liable to Eternal Death in the World to come: I will mention such of their Crimes only for which they now lie under a Sentence of Death, and this very day, are to pay their Lives, as a satisfaction to the Good Government, they have so often, most wickedly and unjustly abused, that they may be an Example of Terror to all evil doers, who by this may pray to God to send them his Grace, that they may be inclined to live a more honest and Christian-like Life; and thereby avoid the Shames and Miseries, that they bring upon themselves, their Families, and Relations.

Charles Butler, under a Judgment of *High-Treason*, for Clipping, Filig and Counterfeiting the Current Coin of this Kingdom, was drawn upon a Sled to the place of Execution, he confessed that which induced him to this Course of Life, was a design to enrich himself sooner then he could by an honest Course of Life: but with an Admonition, to all people, that it was in vain, to go on in such kind of unlawful ways, and that though they did prosper for some time they must expect Justice to seize them at last: though they might continue in it undiscovered for some time, & that those ways might to appearance seem very pleasant in the sight of those which began to undertake in that of unlawful gain, & that he had employed that trouble and care, in honest endeavours might (he is now sensible) have been to him as great profit in the End.

Mary Phelps, was the Wife of a Baker by Trade, who has the report of an honest, careful, industrious Man: She is under a Judgment, for the Murder of *John Charlton* in *Covent-Garden*, and has lived a very suspicious and wicked kind of life, in the Apprehension of most of her Neighbours: she confessed in general, that she had been a great sinner, and acknowledged the justice of the Proceedings against her Life, and submitted her self to the hands of the Law.

The Innocent Man, that was inhumanly Murthered by her procurement, has left behind him a careful Mother and several small Children, that received a Comptent Maintenance from the honest industrious Endeavours of the Deceased, it being a Character, that most of his Neighbours give him, and no doubt will contribute to the inducing of good minded people to lend their Christian Aid to the distressed Widdow and Fatherless Children, that are by this cruel Murther exposed to the want of those helps, which in his life time they received from his daily Labours.

Charles Dod, *Edward Williams*, and *Hugh Jones*, were all three Executed at *Tyburn*, the oldest of them scarce having seen 20 years, yet some of them have been convicted at least four or five times, of Crimes much of the same Nature, with this which they have now suffered for: they shewed great Penitence, and confessed that they had followed this way of living, ever since that they were seven years old, & that they had deserved death several years ago, advising all young men to study honest ways of living, and

and to carry themselves Dutifully, and Obediently, to their Parents and Masters, the want of which was a great cause of bringing them to this, their shameful End.

They confessed they had been instrumental in Debauching a great many young men, who were the children of honest parents that lived in good Credit in the City. And prayed if any of them were Spectators of their shameful end, they would thereby be Acrichised to forsake all their lewd Acquaintance, that are the abettors and encouragers of those Vices, that brought them to be made the publick Spectacle of Justice: And prayed that they would submit themselves to the care of their honest Parents whom they had too long abused, and that they would make it their endeavours to restore a just satisfaction to all such persons as they knew were injured by them, and that they would apply themselves to God in continual prayer to enable them by his grace to withstand the wicked temptations of the Devil, the vain lusts of the Flesh, and all other allurements of this World.

John Smith, was under a judgment of Death, for a Felony and Burglary, upon the House of the Right Honourable the Earl of *Lindsey*, and stealing thence, Goods, Plates, and other things of a great value: some of the Apparel of the Countess of *Lindsey*, being found upon him he confessed he had been a Notorious Offender, and commended the Justice of the Court in the proceedings of his Trial. He has been an old Offender, though but a young man; and it's reported the Thieves, and Pickpockets themselves, were amazed at the impudent Methods, he took in the Management of his Viloanies: Admonishing all people to forbear the practice of such Villeny, that were against the Laws of God and Man, and desired all people that were there present, to pray for him, having hopes of finding mercy where he was going, though the Crimes he was guilty of, were of too deep a Dye to be washed away in this world with any other thing but his Blood; yet he hoped that of his Saviours, would cleanse him from all Corruption, and thanked the Ordinary, for the great pains and services he had done him since the time of his Condemnation.

John Quarles, was under judgment of Death, for a Felony and Burglary, to the value of between three score and four score pounds: he confessed he had been an Offender for many years past, and that the longer had Acted in his ungedly way of Life, the less he was sensible of the wickedness he acted: & declared he was heartily sorrow full for the injuries he had done to all people, and he hoped that they would (if any were there present) joyn with him in their prayers to God, to bestow his mercy on him in the world to come. He being very willing to resign his Life which he had justly forfeited, and hoped that if any were present (that had followed such like Courses) that they would be warned by his shameful end, to forbear their wicked practices, and to sin no more, lest a worse thing befall them.

He confessed he had Received Grace and Mercy, no less then four times, having had the benefit of his Clergy twice, and his Majesties Gracious Pardon of Transportation, as many times; acknowledging that he might have lived plentifully well by his labours in a lawful way, being a Goldsmith by Trade:

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But that the wicked lufis of the flesh and the vanities of this world fo far prevailed upon him as to flight and fet light e fteem of all juft means of honeft living: and acknowledged he had drawn too many others into the lame wicked practices of which fome had payed their blood as a juft fatisfaction for the wrongs and injuries they had done.

Mr. Ordinary, having prayed with them, and admonifhed them of the Judgment they were fuddenly to appear before, where no fecrets were hid advifed them to make a clear and a full Confeflion of all their crimes, which they might hitherto Conceal, and that with fuch Submiffion, Confeflion, and Repentance, God might be pleafed to fhew forth the fullnefs of his mercy, and appear a mighty Deliverer to them, in this time of their of their great Necessity, and pronounced the Bleffing, and took his leave of them, and immediately the Executioner did his Office.

Mr. Butler, being Requested by the *Ordinary*, to fpeak what he knew concerning the Fire in the Temple, his Answer was, that upon the Words of a dying Man, and as he expected Mercy from the Almighty, he was fo much a ftranger to it, as the Infant at his Mothers Breaft, and he himfelf loft above threefcore pounds.

Entered according to order,

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the confefled he had Received Grace and Mercy, no lefs than having had the benefit of his Clergy twice, and his Justice Commifion fardon of Transporation, as many know, adding that he might have lived p'fently well by his labour in a ftrict way being Goldenh by T.